



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

# HOMeward

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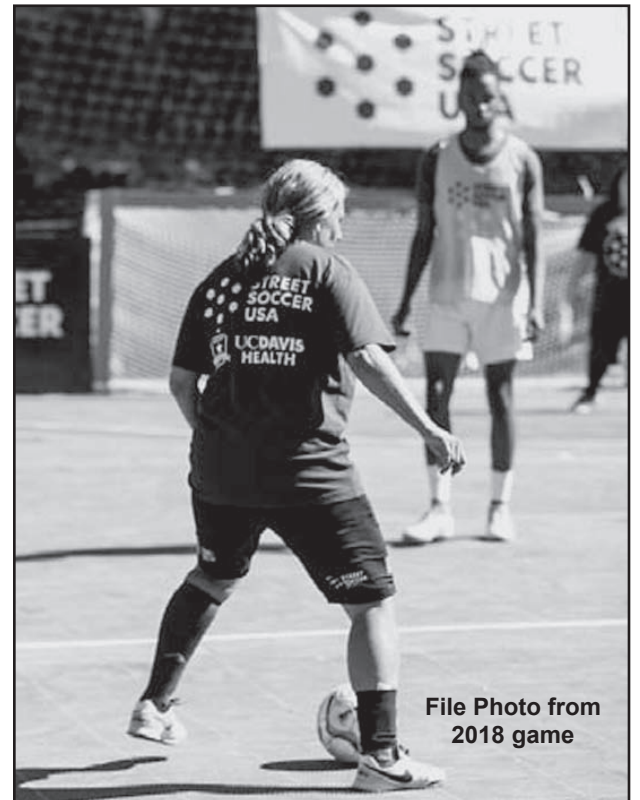
## The Homeless World Cup — Street Soccer — Is Coming To Sacramento!

### Save The Date: July 8 — 15, 2023 at Sacramento State

The Homeless World Cup is coming to Sacramento this July! After taking a three year break due to COVID restrictions, it is back in Sacramento for its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the first Homelessness World Cup Tournament to be held in the United States. This event will call together 64 teams from 51 nations to compete in this year's tournament.

Sacramento has had a team for over two decades, with a mission to fight poverty and empower underserved communities through soccer. Street Soccer USA, Sacramento states: "At Street Soccer USA Sacramento we serve women & men in treatment for substance abuse, currently living in shelters and/or seeking support for housing, survivors of domestic violence, assault, sex trafficking, LGBTQ+ community, TAY youth and former foster youth individuals seeking support for mental health disorders, and Safe Ground clients experiencing homelessness."

*For more information and volunteer opportunities:  
Homeless World Cup - [www.homelessworldcup.org/hwc-2023](http://www.homelessworldcup.org/hwc-2023)  
Street Soccer USA, Sacramento - [www.streetsoccerusa.org/sacramento/](http://www.streetsoccerusa.org/sacramento/)*



File Photo from 2018 game

## Forty Years of Homelessness

by Paul Boden and Western Regional Advocacy Project

Forty years ago, the federal government slashed affordable housing budgets of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), marking the beginning of the contemporary crisis of homelessness. It has become political fodder for local politicians to say they will end homelessness "in this city" with complete disregard for the fact that no one city created homelessness, and none will end it on their own.

To understand why national rates of homelessness skyrocketed in the 1980s, we must ask; what systemic factors changed in the late 1970s and early 1980s to allow so many people to fall through the social safety net and end up living and dying on our streets? What has been happening over the last 500 years to result in Black and Indigenous people being disproportionately represented in the houseless population, and hit hardest by criminalization? Homelessness is a direct result of the decisions and funding priorities of the federal government, in a larger context of white supremacy, settler colonialism

and neoliberalism. If the federal government had chosen to support affordable housing, health care, anti-poverty wages and programs, worker's protections, and quality education—rather than war, tax breaks for the wealthy, and corporate welfare—mass homelessness would not exist in our nation.

In 1983, the Reagan administration tasked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with directing a national solution to the rising number of people

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# Self-government As Resistance

By Cathleen Williams

They – the powers that be – don't want this to happen, but it's happening anyway. In Sacramento, Oakland, in cities across the West Coast – and other places too – unhoused residents have banded together and built self-governing settlements. Their stories show that unhoused residents can find power in the midst of dispossession and loss, and can learn to resist eviction, fighting together for each other and for their shared goal of stability in a place, a space, a bit of the planet where the government says they cannot go. The story of their struggle also shows how the broader community gathers to nurture and support these encampments as a common project.

But there's more. It turns out that self-government – balancing community needs and individual autonomy in a stable environment – is crucial to psychic health. Isolation, feelings of despair, powerlessness, rage – triggered by the trauma of being houseless – are conditions directly addressed by communal self-government.

As one resident of Oakland's self-governing Wood Street Commons put it, it's like "medicine."

The meaning of these encampments shines in illuminated letters – a testament to human

ingenuity, tenacity, and fellow feeling – against a background of bitter abandonment and deliberate destruction. The few encampments run by cities and counties are, by contrast, places where searches, curfews and controls require residents to trade their agency, their freedom and privacy, for 2 bag lunches per day and temporary occupancy of a tent or tuff shed without electricity or running water. Self-governed settlements are a different story.

## Why Do The "Powers That Be" Destroy Self Governing Settlements Instead Of Working With Them?

Public agencies dole out funds for the "lucky few" who may qualify for an apartment -- but at the same time, they wage war against the many left outside and deny these unhoused residents resources like trash pick-up, water, sanitation – in fact, any and all assistance with their living situation. The evident policy is that basic protections *cannot be extended* to settlements of unhoused residents on public land. It's a crazy, harmful policy. Why deny residential services, when providing them would improve relationships between housed and unhoused neighbors and promote community-wide health and healing? Why not help and support self-governance instead of destroying all communal settlements?

The reason for this policy is that recognizing

the needs of informal settlements, and stabilizing them, would empower unhoused residents as a community and class. Stability, that essential condition of human life, fosters power and independence. That power and independence threatens the system by creating avenues for political organization and for advancing visions of a cooperative future.

If you doubt this motivation for the constant destruction and dispersal of communal living, consider the conduct of the LAPD on February 13, 2023, which made the news in an article headed, "The city's demolition of a canopy tent house that served as the home of an activist and an ad hoc community center has skid row residents outraged." (LA Times 2/20/23) Stephanie Williams, a Black woman, created this center as "a safe haven, a safe place where people could come and rest." The tents across the street were not destroyed. The safe haven was.

Self-governed settlements, like Stephanie Williams' canopies, undermine the system of constantly demonizing, destabilizing, and dispersing unhoused residents, thereby robbing them of their political voice. With stability, unhoused residents find their own help, forge networks and mobilize their allies. They organize for common space, communication channels, distribution of resources. They pound away relentlessly and challenge their disempowerment through every channel, including the courts, local boards and councils, and the state legislature.

Here is a story of significant, if fragile, recent wins.

## **CAMP RESOLUTION** *Sacramento, California*

Perhaps it doesn't look like much – a sprawling empty lot, part paved, part gravelly dirt, on a nondescript street in the northern reaches of the city, a lot fenced at great expense for the express purpose of keeping out the houseless. According to the regional water quality board, the soil is contaminated and unfit for human occupancy. But in a city where thousands live unlawfully outside,



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# Self-government Continued

this unwanted city-owned open space has become a battle ground between the dozens of unhoused people who cut the lock on the fence and boldly took possession of the lot, and the police forces mobilized by the city government to bring about their mass eviction. As we go to press, the threat of eviction looms again.

As reported in the last issue of Homeward, on November 15, 2022, residents and their allies converged at a City Council meeting to urge the city to cancel yet another imminent eviction and work with residents to preserve the self-organized settlement, which they named “Camp Resolution.” These residents came together not just for temporary housing, but to create a protest camp, established to demand housing for themselves and the unhoused community as a whole, and to call for the transformation of the chaotic, underfunded local emergency response system that does so much harm to unhoused people in the way that it cycles people in and out of shelter, intensifying the ongoing instability of their lives.

Perhaps the best evidence of Camp Resolution’s evolution is their advocacy for Holly Porter, a resident who is partially paralyzed, cared for by her family and by other residents, and confined to a hospital bed operated with a hand crank in her tent. The residents have made the demand that Holly and her caregiver be housed. The dire urgency of the situation, and the city’s shameful neglect, made front page news in Sacramento.

The future of Camp Resolution is uncertain, its unity fragile, but this achievement and the legacy of autonomy – of resolution – stands as an example for unhoused organizers in the future.

## **WOOD STREET COMMONS**

Clustered in the wastelands beneath the concrete pillars of West Oakland’s vast freeway exchanges, settlements on Wood Street have organized and fought evictions for years, bringing together activists and artists to celebrate their lineage as rebels in the city that birthed the Black Panthers. Currently, just one community of about 60



people remains.

Resident John Janesco recently sketched the activities at Wood Street Commons and the need to preserve it from destruction:

“Right now we are self-governed. Used to be just tents and one RV. Now we have friends and supporters visiting, we are preparing meals, keeping clothing closets. We pick up donations ourselves, we have shelter here, we have 8 couches where people can crash in the middle of the night. We have blankets and sleeping bags that we have been given. We feed people and we volunteer. We have a medical van come here and we coordinate appointments. We have no gunshots or problems because we have a code of conduct that people respect.

Don’t close the lot -- use it as a model. We are helping one another, and that is what community is about. If we are dismantled people will go out on the street and be scared.” (KPFA radio, 1/4/23)

Given the uncertain future of housing in this country, and the rising millions who cannot afford it, the struggle of the unhoused is, in a sense, just beginning. Self-governing encampments are leading the way, demanding the right to live in a stable environment until housing is made available.

At Wood Street Commons, in January, the tightly knit community of residents organized and brought suit against the city’s threatened police action to destroy the settlement. On February 11, Wood Street Commons got a temporary restraining order blocking their eviction, pending the construction of replacement cabins.

Check out Wood Street Commons on the Web – [WoodStreetCommons.com](http://WoodStreetCommons.com). This article is indebted to the sources cited on the website, including a film by Martin Reade and articles by John Janesco and LaMonte Ford.

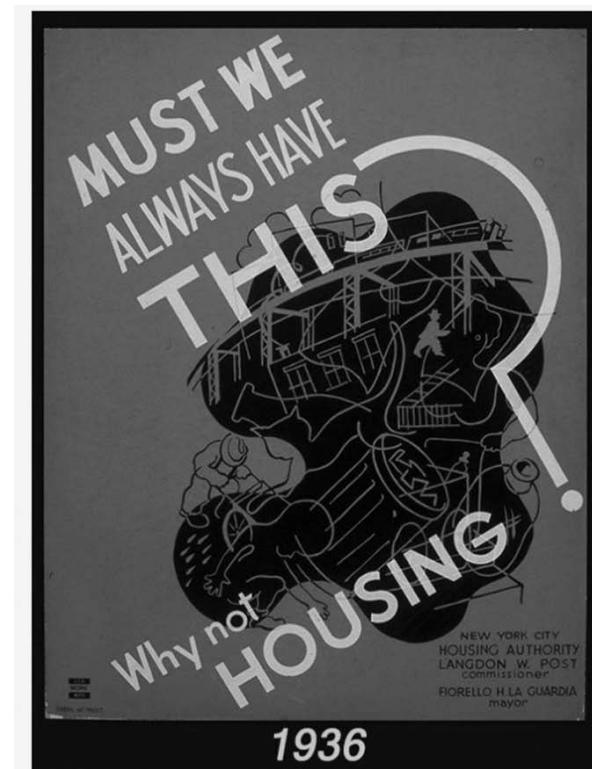
# Forty Years of Homelessness

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without homes. FEMA, the federal agency responsible for disaster relief, did what they always do, which was to create thousands of short-term, emergency shelters. Given the economic downturn of the 1980s, popular sentiment was that the crisis would self-correct in time. But by 1987, the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act marked the first federal legislation devoted solely to “managing” the epidemic of homelessness that was growing across the nation. As real affordable housing programs were being defunded by the federal government, funding for shelter programs grew exponentially. For four decades, homeless shelters that were meant to be a temporary solution to a temporary problem remain the primary response, along with criminalization, to people sleeping en masse in the streets. This ain’t no temporary problem and the Federal Government never honestly thought it would be.

Historical context is critical to understanding who is hardest hit by forty years of social disinvestment. Ongoing systems of white supremacy and settler colonialism that affect everything from housing to healthcare, education to transportation, and especially the criminal (in)justice system mean that homelessness and its myriad related traumas disproportionately impact people along intersectional lines of race, gender, sexuality, disability, immigration, and so on. This is no accident.

It is exactly across these intersectional lines of difference that so many of us have joined forces in working for meaningful and deep change, building on ongoing fights for prison abolition, racial justice, disability justice, and countless other struggles. In 2005, for example, several groups organizing in the western US came together to create the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), and across the country other community groups are doing the same thing all fighting to give life to the realities of people with firsthand experience of these oppressive systems and to push for dignified solutions. We are continuing the fight to combat carceral shelters, end the criminalization of racialized poverty, stop



(Left) Mayor and Housing Director of NYC in 1936, artwork funded by WPA Federal Public Housing Administration created 1937  
(Right) Art Hazelwood and WRAP 2022 Artwork Courtesy WRAP



the sweeps, and fight for actual housing, healthcare, education and dignity that all human beings deserve. True community organizing brings allied local groups together to find common threads and strategize

paths forward, mobilize legal resources for members, creates artwork and shared messaging, connects communities through coordinated direct actions, research and so much more. Seek out these groups and expand the Human Rights framework of dignity and respect for people is not a charity issue, it is the least we should demand and expect of our government.

After 40 years, the system is still doing exactly what it was designed to do: manage and minimize the presence of homeless people. It was NEVER intended to address homelessness in any real way. I was here 40 years ago, and I’m still here today. The bunk beds and crash pads that FEMA funded was implemented to create a new category of housing status for members of a community but that’s exactly what it has done. After 40 years of inhumane abject failure it is past time to recognize “managing visible homelessness” isn’t a solution to shit. Homelessness is just a more visible manifestation of a society lacking in justice.

Our organizing and public education most continue to build on the realities of all oppressed people so we lift our realities and our power together!



Ronnie Godman, (2020)... Rest in Power Brother.  
Courtesy WRAP

# Vulture Capitalism = Homelessness

By Muriel Strand

When I took California's two basic real estate classes at Sacramento City College, one of the instructors told us point blank that the 'highest and best use' was defined as whatever makes the most money. This is a prescription for a shortage of affordable housing.

This cultural factor is compounded by the fact that corporations have been exporting and automating manufacturing jobs, and real working-class wages have been gutted since then-President Reagan installed the trickle-down economy, displacing the New Deal perspective of empowering and investing in workers.

Capitalist market structures that depend on minimizing corporate transaction costs mean that investors in large corporate landlords see lower relative costs than small mom-and-pop landlords who also charge and evict less. The 2008 mortgage crisis brought hedge funds and other speculative investors into the housing market because smart investors buy when things are on sale.

More recently, the Covid-related financial turbulence shipwrecked some small landlords, another opportunity for vulture capitalism. While all landlords faced suspension of rental income, small landlords faced the same red tape as the large ones, another source of higher relative costs for small landlords with relatively shallow financial foundations.

The economic principle that demand creates a supply does not seem to pertain to ordinary workers, as we see increasing populations of people who are working and homeless. Although "HUD-certified housing counselors are available [call 1-800-569-4287] to help you with your housing situation, discuss your options, and send you to other local resources" the options and resources are apparently meager.

Even before covid, about half of those entering emergency homeless shelters had been effectively evicted. Another reason people need emergency shelter is the gaping holes in the social safety net. Recently, UCSD professor of psychiatry Elizabeth W. Twamley explained that while many homeless people would qualify for support such as SSI, the red

tape involved in applying and the very long time often required for processing and approval are a challenge even for sheltered middle-class people, let alone for those of less-than-average reading skills who are living in tents that get swept regularly.

Meanwhile, boomers want to make sure that their cobbled-together combination of social security benefits, deferred-compensation funds, and possibly a defined-benefit pension with maybe even health benefits, that this patchwork quilt of investment income will cover them until they croak. Sadly, their institutional investments benefit from the investments of middle-man hedge funds and investment banks who make speculative profits on the repossession and rental of underwater houses and small rental units. Of course, the new owners raise the rents and asking prices of their bargains.

The role of empty housing units due to passive investment, second homes, AirBnB, renovation, etc., varies among cities and is the subject of debate. And of course, developers complain about anything that raises their costs and reduces their profits. As usual, the capacity factor of consumption (here, the ratio of occupied bedrooms to empty ones) is neglected, unlike the capacity factor of production.

Last September, Rae Hartley Beck of bankrate.com reported that "While the market has cooled somewhat in recent months, the colossal growth of investment firms buying up starter homes is going to have lasting impacts on first-time homebuyers specifically. Many would-be first-time homebuyers are being priced out of the market. With firms like Blackstone preparing to invest \$50 billion to acquire residential real estate, "there will have to be a shift in regulations on big corporations" to adjust the playing field for first-time buyers," according to Julie Reese, a real estate agent in Bellevue Washington.

Will any government step in to ensure a level playing field for ordinary renters and homebuyers alongside the Wall Street leviathans? Stay tuned but don't hold your breath.

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# California homelessness: Where are the state's billions going?

By Ben Christopher,  
Courtesy of CalMatters

*For the first time, a new state report offers a bird-eye view of how much the state has spent to halt homelessness — nearly \$10 billion over three years. Of the half-million Californians who made use of those services, more than 40% ended up housed. Which also means the majority did not, or the state lost track of their whereabouts.*

In Sacramento, there's a word that keeps popping up during discussions about the state's homelessness crisis: "accountability."

Gov. Gavin Newsom has scolded cities and counties for failing to get more people off the street, hundreds of millions in state spending notwithstanding. "Californians demand accountability and results, not settling for the status quo," the governor said last November.

Republicans in the Legislature have called for an audit of the state's homelessness spending. Democrats are still absorbing the last one from 2021, but many want to see the state's money come with strings attached. This week, Assemblymember Luz Rivas, an Arleta Democrat, introduced a bill that would demand "tangible results" from local governments before they receive homelessness grants — mirroring an idea from the governor's own budget proposal.

The increasingly bipartisan chorus points to two stark, seemingly contradictory trends: The state keeps spending more to address the crisis, and the crisis keeps getting worse. So where, they ask, is all the money going?

On Wednesday, California lawmakers got something that resembles an answer.

The state's Interagency Council on Homelessness, a state body tasked with overseeing the state's homelessness strategy and divvying up funding to local governments, issued a report detailing just how much the state has spent on the crisis between 2018 and 2021 — and what it's gotten in return.

The answer to those questions, according to the report: The state has spent nearly \$10 billion and provided services to more than 571,000 people, each year helping more people than the last.

And despite all that, at the end of year three, the majority of those more than half a million Californians still didn't end up with a roof over their heads. The number of unsheltered Californians continues to swell.

Presented at a three-hour joint committee hearing in the Assembly, the report has sent housing policy experts across the state into a twitter. Services for the homeless are so disjointed — split among nine state agencies, hundreds of county and municipal governments, nonprofits and charitable organizations — the 253-page document may be the first statistical birds-eye view of the state's many-tentacled efforts.

But it also shows just how intractable the problem is.

"One of the largest challenges facing the state is the inflow of new people into homelessness, even as efforts to help people experiencing homelessness expand," the report reads.

What the report did not address is how the state can spend its money more effectively. Nor was it asked to. The report comes at the request of the Legislature, which included an ask in its 2021 budget for a "comprehensive view of the homelessness response system," not an audit nor a list of recommendations.

But it may provide lawmakers, service providers and advocates

with some helpful hints about what's working, what isn't and for whom.

"We've sent people to the moon," said Oakland Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, a Democrat who chairs the Assembly's housing committee. "We can solve homelessness in California."

## 1. California has been spending a lot to remedy homelessness — mostly on housing

Between 2018 and 2021, the state spent \$9.6 billion trying to move the needle on homelessness.

Many Californians will be able to relate: The bulk of the spending, \$5.5 billion in this case, went to the cost of housing.

That includes everything from building new units to preserving old ones, converting unused hotel rooms during the pandemic into temporary housing, building shelters, and setting up permanent supportive housing facilities that provide a long-term subsidized place to stay along with other on-site social services.

According to the report, the state produced or kept online 58,714 affordable housing units in the three year period, and added 17,000 new shelter beds.

Some of that spending has been more likely to lead people out of homelessness than others. Of the more than 75,000 people placed into permanent supportive housing of some kind, for example, only 8% wound up back on the street within six months.

Conversely, for those who left a state funded program to live with a family member or a friend, the rate of those who were homeless again within six months doubled. And for those who left for a rental with only a temporary subsidy, that rate of return to homelessness was 23%.

For some legislators and advocates, the figures underscored the importance of building more housing above all other interventions.

"Shelters are very expensive to build; they're very expensive to operate," said Emily Halcon, the director of Sacramento County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing. "What we know is a real solution is housing."

But building more housing — particularly with subsidized rents or other wrap-around services — is expensive. That's in part why some homelessness and housing advocates say the 10-figure sum that the state has spread across the three years of the assessment isn't even close to enough. A report from the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the California Housing Partnership at the end of last year put the price tag of "solving" homelessness in California at \$8.1 billion every year for more than a decade.

## 2. A lot of people have been housed — but most have not

The report tracked more than half a million Californians who, over the three year period, made use of at least one of the services that the state funds, as recorded in a new state database.

The good news: More than 40% ended up in housing — supportive, subsidized or otherwise.

The bad news: The majority didn't, or the state lost track of their whereabouts.

Nearly 17% were, at the end of the period, still in a shelter or temporary housing of some other kind or had exited whatever program they were enrolled in "into homelessness." Another

quarter fell out of the system entirely, their "destination" unknown.

Assemblymember Corey Jackson, a Democrat from Perris who chairs the Assembly Human Services committee, asked about the 17% who return to homelessness, which he called a "red flag" in the data.

"We need to remember that this is the emergency response system, if you will," responded Dhakshika Wickrema, the deputy secretary of California's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. "What more can we be doing which is outside the homeless system? It's like when you go to the emergency room — what could the primary care physician have done to prevent the acute diabetes?"

## 3. The burden of homelessness is not equally distributed

Drawing on the most recent "point-in-time" survey, which provides a blurry snapshot of how many people are living outside on a given night, the report emphasizes the stark racial and ethnic disparities that exist across the state's unsheltered population. Black people made up roughly 30% of the people counted on the street, more than five times their share of the state population. Indigenous Californians likewise were overrepresented five-fold.

And though Latino Californians were underrepresented, between 2015 and 2020, their numbers in surveys of the unsheltered increased by 65%, the fastest growing ethnic or racial group.

## 4. Not all homelessness looks the same

When politicians or talking heads use the word "homelessness," it's often meant to evoke a particular person experiencing a particular set of problems: someone asleep on the sidewalk, unbathed, suffering from acute mental illness, addiction, physical disability or some combination of the three.

That's the most visible version of the state's homelessness crisis, but as the new figures show, it isn't the most common one.

According to the report, 1 in 5 people who enrolled in state-funded homelessness programs were considered "chronically homeless" — unsheltered for at least a year while living with a complicating health issue.

But more than three times as many — two-thirds of all who sought state-funded services for homelessness — were people who hadn't popped up in the system for at least two years, if ever.

These might be families evicted and temporarily residing in a car, someone couch surfing while gathering the money for a rental deposit, or people who got their own apartment only to get slammed with an unexpected car payment and find themselves back in a shelter.

Acknowledging that continuum matters — not just for the sake of accuracy, said Assemblymember Wendy Carillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, but because different paths into homelessness might be best met with different pathways out.

"Whether it's someone living in their vehicle, being evicted from their home, someone experiencing chronic homelessness for decades, living on the streets of Skid Row for many, many years, all of these things are different," she said. "They need to have different solutions."

# 'No Light At The Other End': Impending Loss Of Pandemic CalFresh Boost Could Trigger Hunger Spike

By Jeanne Kuang,  
Courtesy of CalMatters,

*For nearly three years, an increase in federal aid has allowed California to issue higher-than-usual amounts in food stamps. That ends in April.*

Food banks across California are bracing for a feared spike in hunger amid inflated prices after a pandemic-era boost in food aid ends in April.

March is the last month CalFresh recipients will get the additional benefits, as the federal government cuts off the "emergency allotments" that have kept food stamp allowances higher than usual for nearly three years now.

The average household on CalFresh will lose about \$200 a month, said Becky Silva, government relations director at the California Association of Food Banks. A single-person household, for instance, could drop from \$281 a month in food aid to as low as \$23 in April.

U.S. Department of Agriculture documents show that since November, the pandemic boosts have amounted to more than \$500 million a month in additional food stamps coming into low-income Californians' budgets.

"There's no way to overstate how devastating this is going to be," Silva said. "Families are going to see a dramatic and sudden drop in their food benefits at a time when food price inflation and the cost of living in California especially is through the roof."

Food stamps are funded by the federal government, which determines benefit amounts annually based on the nationwide cost of living as well as recipients' household size and income.

In March 2020, Congress allowed the USDA to give states funding

to boost all recipients' aid to the maximum allowable benefits for their household size, or add \$95 on top for those already receiving the maximum. The recent Congressional spending bill passed in December cuts that off this spring in exchange for funding for extra food aid for school children during the summer months.

More than 2.9 million California households receive food assistance through CalFresh, a number that has risen steadily throughout the pandemic.

The state social services department attributes the increase partially to a more flexible application process during the pandemic, while advocates like Silva also suggest the boost in aid made going through an application more worthwhile for eligible residents.

The loss of emergency allotments will be felt particularly hard by older and disabled people, many of whom have already seen their food aid eligibility reduced after a historic inflationary bump in Social Security checks in January. In addition to wages, Social Security, unemployment benefits and disability payments all count as income for the person receiving food aid.

Tom McSpedden, a 69-year-old Citrus Heights resident with Type II diabetes, saw a nearly \$60 decrease in his normal CalFresh allowance last month after getting a \$109 increase in his monthly Social Security checks.

But he continued to get the pandemic CalFresh boosts, which kept the total food stamps on his benefits card at \$281 that month – the maximum allowable aid for a single-person household.

In April, McSpedden's monthly CalFresh benefits will drop to roughly \$50.

Nearly half of McSpedden's

monthly \$1,368 Social Security check goes toward renting a room; the rest is meticulously budgeted for his phone, car insurance, gas, the portion of insulin and medications that Medicare doesn't cover and bankruptcy payments.

"I don't have the \$230 left over each month to compensate" for the drop in aid, he said. "I'm just not going to be able to afford food. It's that simple."

There isn't any plan to immediately backfill the loss.

The food banks association and other anti-poverty organizations have proposed that the state spend more than \$2 billion providing a "ramp-down" of the extra benefits for five months after the federal boosts end.

But it's unclear whether the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration would agree on new spending as they seek to close a \$23 billion budget deficit.

Advocates are also calling for the state to add its own funds to the regular food stamps program, to boost the minimum food aid grant from \$23 to \$50 with corresponding inflationary increases. Other ideas include expanding special CalFresh programs that provide extra dollars for those purchasing California-grown produce, or for certain Central Valley households who lack clean drinking water in their homes.

Those proposals are "nowhere near approaching the \$500 million a month that will be absent from people's budgets, dinner tables and California retailers as well," said Jared Call, senior advocate at the food policy organization Nourish California. "But our approach is, no tool in the toolbox should be unused."

The California Department of Social Services says it's warning households of the upcoming decline in aid and directing CalFresh

recipients to food banks, which have received additional funding from both the state and federal governments in recent years.

The state's network of food banks continues to serve on average 1.5 times the number of clients as before the pandemic, Silva said.

The Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, which provides food in the county McSpedden lives, averaged 150,000 clients a month before the pandemic, said community resource manager Lorena Carranza. In recent months, that number has been about 275,000.

But food distributions can't replace the flexibility of food stamps that many residents rely on.

With a special diet to manage his diabetes, McSpedden said food distribution boxes usually only contain a few items he can eat. He's loath to take a full box when others could use it, he said.

McSpedden worked for nearly three decades as a long-haul trucker until about 15 years ago, when a series of heart attacks ended that career and landed him in a hospital stay that wiped out his savings and retirement accounts.

"I've been in predicaments before," he said. "But this thing here with the extra food stamps, I have no idea. I'm looking into a tunnel with no light at the other end."



# Resources List

## Sacramento Loaves & Fishes.

1351 North C Street - www.sacloaves.org – (916)446-0874  
 On Campus Programs:  
 Friendship Park – Day center for homeless adults. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2:45PM  
 Welcoming Center – Donation drop-off and admin. Mon-Fri, 7AM-3PM  
 Dining Room – Lunch served. Get tickets and eat lunch in Friendship Park.  
 Maryhouse – Women & family services. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM. (916)446-4961  
 Mustard Seed School – For children ages 3-15. (916)-447-3626  
 Men’s Wash House – showers and laundry for men. Mon-Fri, 7-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM  
 Anneke’s Haven – Kennel for spayed & neutered animals. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM, Sat-Sun 8:30AM-1:30PM  
 Guest Advocate office. Mon-Fri, 8-11AM  
 Library – Reading room, computers & glasses. Mon-Fri, 7:30-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM  
 Jail Visitation – For individuals in custody or recently released. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)447-9472  
 Genesis – Mental health counseling. Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-12PM, 1PM-2:45PM, (916)669-1536  
 Mercy Clinic – TB tests and General medical assistance. 8-11:30AM  
 Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)446-0368  
 Miscellaneous on campus services; Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, El Hogar Mental Health, DHA, RT, Mercer Clinic for veterinary services, Harm Reduction Services.

## River City Food Bank

(916) 446-2627. Food Distribution  
 Hours: Midtown, 1800 28th Street – Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Arden Arcade, 2300 Edison Ave - Friday-Saturday, 10:30am to 1:30pm.

## Sacramento Safe Space for Unhomed Youth –

Tuesdays, 9am to noon, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 1430 J Street. Temporary sanctuary for ages 18-30. Breakfast, hygiene items and other supplies when available. For more information: www.engage.us.org

## Pilgrimage Program –

Rotating support from congregations in Midtown Sacramento. Overnights temporarily canceled. Clothing, Meals, and mobile showers one or two days a week at:  
 Bayside Midtown (19th & W) (916) 706-2337;  
 First United Methodist (21st & J) (916) 446-5025;  
 St. John’s Lutheran (17th & L) (916) 444-0874;  
 Trinity Episcopal (25th & Capitol) (916) 446-2513;  
 First Church of Nazarene (28th & S) (916) 452-6171  
 See @PilgrimageSac on Facebook for the calendar. or **call in advance** for place and times.

## Midtown HART Respite Centers –

Tuesdays: St. John’s Lutheran Church, 1701 L Street, 9:30AM-12:30PM.  
 Fridays: Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave, 9:30AM-12:30PM

## Sacramento Self Help Housing

offers housing counseling and lists, and shared and supportive housing. sacselfhelp.org - (916) 341-0593

## Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic

provides free legal services to homeless people relating infractions and misdemeanors in Sacramento County. Also manages court-ordered community service sentences. (916) 446-0368

## Legal Services of Northern California:

Helps with cases about Housing, public benefits, including CalWorks, CalFresh (food stamps), Medi-Cal, General Assistance (GA), Social Security, SSI, unemployment insurance benefits (UIB), and state disability insurance (SDI). lsnc.net – (916) 551-2150

## Sacramento Tenants Union

– Advocacy support for tenants: sactenantsunion@gmail.com

## Department of Human Assistance(welfare)

Mail – use drop boxes outside office, or submit documents online through mybenefitscalwin.org, or mail them to: P.O. Box 487, Sacramento, CA 95812  
 Apply for Benefits – apply online at www.mybenefitscalwin.org  
 General Assistance, call (916) 874-3100  
 EBT – new or replacements, call (877) 328-9677

## Harm Reduction Service:

2800 Stockton Blvd. Open from 4-6PM weekdays. Call for outreach schedule or supplies. (916) 456-4849

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee



<https://sacshoc.org>  
 (916) 442-2156

SHOC office hours Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30AM-12PM @ Friendship Park. SHOC open meetings are held every Tuesday at 10am at the Delany Center. Email shoc\_1@yahoo.com for Zoom link (hybrid meetings)”

## City of Sacramento:

For general information or questions about Sacramento City’s, shelters, safe camping and safe parking facilities, and COVID-19 in Sacramento, please call 211 or 1-800-500-4931 or 916-498-1000. You also can email info@211sacramento.org

City services: 311

Community Resources: 211

Sacramento Covered  
 (916) 874-9670

Elica Health Centers  
 (916) 454-2345

WellSpace Health  
 (916) 737-5555

Sacramento County Health Center  
 (916) 874-9670

Sacramento County Department of Health Services: www.saccounty.net/COVID-19

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:  
 (877) 424-3838  
 Healthcare & Program Referrals

# Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!

Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee.

The paper’s mission is to lessen misunderstandings between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also provides a financial self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate by being a Homeward Distributor.

**The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily of SHOC or Homeward.**

## Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author’s intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed .

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

**Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.**

All correspondence can be sent to: Homeward Street Journal PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812

The paper may be reached at: (916) 442-2156

The paper may also be e-mailed at homeward2@yahoo.com

On the web at: <https://sacshoc.org/homeward>

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